(b) Prime Minister S.L. Rabuka of Fiji had sent a letter to the PM in September 1997 formally inviting India to reopen its Mission in Suva. The Government of India has accepted the invitation and proposes to reopen the Indian High Commission in Suva soon.

(c) The Government of India has conveyed to the Govt. of Fiji its hope and belief that the events of the past few years were an aberration which will be permanently set aside to enable all the people of Fiji to enjoy peace, progress and stability in a democratic political, social and economic set up which gives all citizens of Fiji an equal stake, opportunity and responsibility in the building of their nation. Hope has also been expressed that the new constitution of Fiji which seeks to end all discriminatory provisions of the earlier constitution will be implemented in letter and spirit. We have supported Fiji's re-entry into the Commonwealth based on our common commitment to the democratic principles enshrined in the Harare Declaration of the Commonwealth.

(d) The Government is in the process of working out and finalising administrative and other arrangements for the reopening of its High Commission in Suva soon.

Rural Electrification

148. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 40,000 crores for electrification of 50,000 villages and energisation of 25 lakhs pump-sets during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether only 30 per cent of target of rural electrification could be achieved during the period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being contemplated by the Government to meet the unaccomplished target of rural electrification in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had approved an outlay of Rs. 4,000 crores for electrification of 50,000 villages and energisation of 25 lakh pumpsets during the 8th Five Year Plan. However, the allocation to REC during his period was as under:

Year	Rs. in Crores
1992-93	510.00
1993-94	600.00
1994-95	654.85
1995-96	799.83
1996-97	783.00
Total	3347.68

(c) No, Sir. The targets for village electrification and Pumpsets energisation for the 8th Plan have been over-exceeded. As against the target of 14872 villages for electrification, the achievement was 17114 villages. For the pumpsets energisation the achievement was 1689371 against the target of 1208178.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Government is according priority for electrification of unelectrified villages and energisation of pumpsets. For speedier electrification of such villages, Government of India is providing Financial assistance to the State Electricity/ Boards/Electricity Departments of the States through REC on confessional terms and conditions.

Production of Uranium and Thorium

149. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of uranium and thorium produced in India and the places from where these mineral resources are obtained;

(b) whether uranium and thorium has been found in Lalitpur District of Uttar Pradesh and the details of other places in the country where reserves of the above minerals have been found;

(c) the time by which the Government propose to undertake the traction work of these mineral reserves;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to install some new reactors with foreign collaboration; and

(e) if so, the names of such countries with whose collaboration new reactors would be installed during this annual plan?